

HR001118S0014 Nascent Light Matter Interactions
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
as of 11/30/17

9Q: Do I need to submit an abstract in order to have a full proposal considered?

9A: No, but proposers are *strongly encouraged* to submit an abstract as described in the BAA. This process will provide you feedback on whether your proposed concept is applicable to the NLM BAA and, more importantly, whether it is of interest.

8Q: Do proposers need to have a green card or be U.S. citizens?

8A: No. However, program participants will need to comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances. Please see Section III.A.2 of the BAA for more information.

7Q: Is a team necessary to submit the proposal or can I submit the proposal as a single PI?

7A: The only requirement is that you can address all of the requirements specified in the BAA.

6Q: We note that part of the program called for proof-of-concept demonstrations. Can you clarify for us whether DARPA intends for those demonstrations to be purely theoretical, or whether they can be experimental?

6A: In Phase II, proof-of-concept demonstrations might be purely theoretical/numerical, but experiments are strongly encouraged. By Phase III, DARPA expects experimental verification of predicted parameters and validation of design tools by demonstrating the selected new techniques for the control of light-matter interactions, in one or more technical focus areas.

5Q: Can one propose just something on theory and modeling? Is fabrication and test required? For example if Phase I is just theory, and a team wants to just focus on theory, then in Phase II does an experimental team have to get involved?

5A: Proposals should address all three phases and provide details for Phase I and Phase II, and a rough order of magnitude for Phase III. Performers are expected to experimentally verify predicted parameters and validate their design tools by demonstrating new techniques for the control of light-matter interactions in one or more focus areas. If experimental expertise is not readily available, DARPA highly encourages teaming before proposal submission and can facilitate the formation of teams with the necessary expertise. Interested parties should submit a one-page profile to nlm@darpa.mil no later than 4:00 p.m. December 5, 2017. Please see Section VIII.B of the BAA for more information on teaming.

4Q: Are there any guidelines or recommendations on the number of investigators or the budget size for a team?

4A: The level of funding for individual awards made under this BAA will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the availability of funds. There are no additional guidelines other than to say that we do expect proposed tasks to be sufficiently ground-breaking, high risk, and challenging. This suggests expertise from a variety of sources might be needed. As stated in the BAA, a proposal will first be evaluated based on its relevance to the NLM goals, and then assessed as to whether the proposed budget, in terms of manpower, expertise, materials etc., is realistic for the tasks/statement of work. Please see Section V of the BAA for more information on how proposals will be evaluated.

3Q: We have a large experienced team working on a specific system already supported by DARPA but which only partly overlaps with NLMs goals. Should we submit?

3A: The NLM program is seeking approaches that advance fundamental concepts and develop models that enable predictions about how specific structured materials will behave under different conditions. We want to develop theory-anchored models that can expand the state of the art either in already-observed phenomena or in never-before-realized and new functionality. Through NLM we expect to identify building blocks to which can then lead to a systematic design approach for controlling electromagnetic waves through these materials by providing rigorous predictive models and design tools. If you can address these requirements then the system you are working on could be an appropriate technical focus, especially for later phases of the program.

2Q: How do I find the BAA?

2A: The BAA is available on the Federal Business Opportunities website (<https://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/HR001118S0014/listing.html>) and the DARPA Opportunities website (<https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities>)

1Q: How do I find the Proposers Day webinar?

1A: The webinar is available at <https://youtu.be/wE1c17V-50Q>.